THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Bangalore is the only city in Karnataka having CGHS facilities. There are 14 dispensaries, one polyclinic and one dental unit under CGHS Bangalore. In addition to this, there are 51 private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognized under CGHS Bangalore where the CGHS cardholders can take treatment after obtaining the necessary permission of the competent authority.

(b) There are 2,11,475 beneficiaries covered with CGHS Serving cards and 24,965 beneficiaries covered with CGHS Pensioner cards in CGHS Bangalore.

(c) No new dispensary/hospital has been opened under CGHS in Karnataka during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(d) There is no proposal at present to open new CGHS dispensaries in Karnataka during 2004-05.

Upgradation of medical colleges

1869. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the upgradation of the medical colleges of the country;

(b) if so, the number of medical colleges chosen for the same; and

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for the upgradation of medical colleges of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI). (a) and (b) Last year, a scheme called Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna was launched wherein it is proposed *inter-alia* to upgrade one medical college each in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to the level of AIIMS like institutions. The scheme is being processed for necessary clearance from competent levels and the final decision will be based on the outcome.

(c) No, Sir.